

Abstract

A color video projection display system having an improved contrast ratio is disclosed. At least one reflective or transmissive panel, e.g., a liquid crystal on silicon (LCoS) panel, is arranged within the system to receive incident light of one or more designated colors via an input optical path. The reflective or transmissive panel modulates the incident light in accordance with corresponding applied signals, and the resulting modulated light is further processed via an output optical path to generate a viewable display. At least one low-retardance film is arranged within one of (i) the input optical path of the system between an input optical path polarizer and the panel, and (ii) the output optical path of the system between the panel and an output optical path polarizer, so as to increase a contrast ratio of the viewable display. The invention can be implemented in single-panel or multi-panel configurations.